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HARDIS LAWRENCE T  
79 MONTEVIDEO 2287

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ACTION AREA-14

INFO OCT-71 EIR-12 ISO-12 HA-25 PA-21 PPS-21 USIA-22

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO DECSSTATE WASHDC 5696

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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C.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: STIM

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF ELAVIO TAVARES

REF: MONTEVIDEO 79 (NOTAL)

1. THE CASE OF BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST ELAVIO TAVARES, ARRESTED HERE LAST JULY UNDER ACCUSATION OF ESPIONAGE, HAS BEEN RESOLVED BY THE GOU WITH HIS EXPULSION FROM URUGUAY ON JANUARY 24. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, TAVARES WAS PRESENTED EARLY THAT MORNING WITH A 24-HOUR DEPARTURE ORDER AND HE LEFT FOR BUENOS AIRES LATE THAT AFTERNOON. TAVARES, PREVIOUSLY FREED UNDER CONDITIONAL LIBERTY (RECEIVED) INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE WITH HIS FAMILY ON TO LISBON, WHERE HE HAS BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. TO THE END OF HIS EMERGENCY STAY IN URUGUAY TAVARES KEPT TO THE SAME PUBLIC LINE, NAMELY THAT HIS ACTIVITIES HERE HAD BEEN PURELY JOURNALISTIC; THAT HE REMAINED CONFIDENT THAT THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" WOULD BE RESOLVED IN HIS FAVOR; THAT HIS PRESENT HEALTH PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED HIS

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IMPRISONMENT; AND THAT HE HAD BEEN "CORRECTLY" TREATED WHILE IN CONFINEMENT. HE WILL BE CURIOUS TO SEE WHETHER HE MAINTAINS THIS LINE AFTER REACHING HIS LISBON SAFEHAVEN.

2. TAVARES' EXPULSION CAME EARLY IN ADVANCE OF THE VISIT OF BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL, SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25-27. THE BRAZILIANS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY INSISTENT THAT TAVARES BE GONE FROM URUGUAY BEFORE GEISEL'S ARRIVAL SO AS NOT TO PROVIDE A POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT DURING HIS OTHERWISE CAREFULLY STAGED VISIT. HOWEVER, IN TYPICAL FASHION, WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD DECISION HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DRAG ON UNTIL THE GOU WAS LEFT WITH THE WORST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS. MONTEVIDEO IS ALREADY INUNDATED WITH BRAZILIAN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE NOT HESITATED TO SEEK OUT TAVARES. AND, HOWEVER BLANDLY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAY PLAY THE CASE, THE CONCLUSION WILL INEVITABLY (AND CORRECTLY) ARISE THAT THE GOU AGED AS BEST, RELUCTANTLY AND

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR                                           |                                                                                                 |
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| RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE | TS AUTH. _____                                                                                  |
| REASON(S) _____                                                        |                                                                                                 |
| ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>                     | DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R-LLASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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